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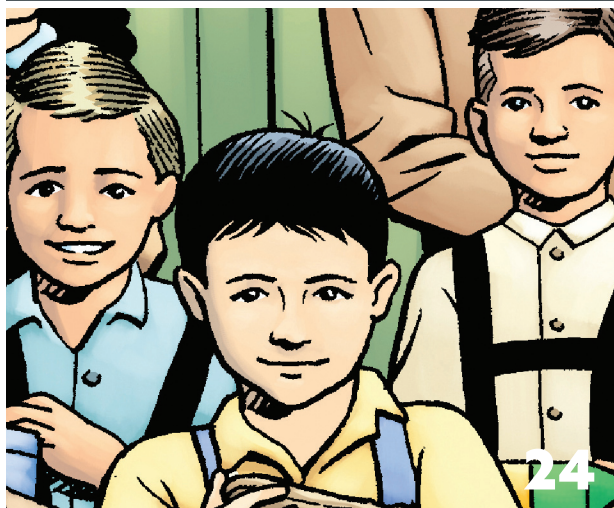
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By Jeff Stoffer

COVER: Oil-containment boom is tested on Prince William Sound. Approximately 50 miles of boom is now on hand, while in 1989 only five miles of it was readily available. Photo courtesy Prince William Sound Regional Citizens' Advisory Council



The American Legion Magazine, a leader among national general-interest publications, is published monthly by The American Legion for its 1.6 million members. These wartime veterans, working through more than 12,000 community-level posts, dedicate themselves to God and Country and traditional American values; strong national security; adequate and compassionate care for veterans, their widows and orphans; community service; and the wholesome development of our nation's youth.

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Sincerely, A. Macon, Williamsburg, VA

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'Be the One' to save one veteran's life

"Mental health is health, period." Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin speaks this phrase often, and The American Legion couldn't agree more. The stigma must end. If we

are going to reduce the veteran suicide rate, it is crucial that we look at this issue much differently than prior generations did. If we wait for a person to attempt suicide before we reach out, there is a good chance we'll be too late.

All of us, though, can play a part in preventing veteran suicide. The Legion's Be the One campaign encourages everyone, veteran and civilian alike, to "be the one" to ask veterans in their life how they're doing, to listen when they need to talk, and to reach out when they're struggling.

Statistics don't tell the whole story. The National Veteran Suicide Prevention Report of 2022 reports there were on average 16.8 veteran suicides per day in 2020. But those numbers don't include active-duty suicides. Another study by America's Warrior Partnership, the University of Alabama and Duke University states that many veteran suicides are mistakenly classified as accidental fentanyl overdoses, and the total could be as high as 44 per day.

Rather than fixate on these numbers, I'm asking each of us to focus on one veteran. Reach out to a veteran you know or even one you don't. Whether you call it a Buddy Check or just an informal get-together, the key is communication.

Very few of us are trained counselors or mental health professionals. But we are capable of listening, referring and following up. The national crisis line still works, but now there's an even shorter number: 988, press 1 for veteran. Most kindergarteners know what 911 is for. It's up to us to ensure 988 becomes just as widely recognized.

We must be proactive. Ask and encourage veterans to seek help before they pass a point of no return. The bonds we formed in the military are enduring. A good American Legion post deepens these bonds and creates new ones.

Learn more about how you can "be the one" to save a veteran's life at **betheone.org**.

THE AMERICAN Legion MAGAZINE

Veterans Strengthening America

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Act of Justice

This article (October) did not mention the thousands of Women's Army Corps (WAC) veterans and others who have suffered many of the same chronic illnesses as those who served at Camp Lejeune and throughout Asia because they were exposed to the same poisons through contaminated water at Fort McClellan, Ala., former home of the Army Chemical School.

A bill pending in Washington, H.B. 2825, would include those who served at Fort McClellan in the PACT Act. I encourage all Legion members, their families and others who have suffered from chemical exposure to contact their lawmakers.

Jeanie Beal, The Colony, Texas

Editor's note: The American Legion supports such legislation via Resolution 11, passed at the 101st National Convention in 2019.

Saving George

Regarding the article by Henry Howard (October): After returning from a tour as an enlisted Army combat medic in Vietnam, I found the best therapy was sharing some experiences with a high school buddy who served as a Marine Corps machine gunner. Some stories we shared were funny, some horrific, and this helped us realize the common experiences that occur in close combat. It helped both of us,

as we didn't share this with friends who didn't serve. I think it would help veterans from any era if they could connect with others with the same experiences, and help prevent some suicides that could occur if they stay isolated.

*John Hofer,
Cross
Plains,
Wis.*

THE AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE WELCOMES YOUR OPINIONS

Include your hometown and a daytime phone number for verification. All letters published are subject to editing. Due to the volume of mail received, not every letter can be acknowledged.

The American Legion Magazine,
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*Post 828
First Vice
Commander
Johnnie
Shephard
is part of a
team that
makes Buddy
Check calls to
members.*

Photo courtesy Burrell Parmer

"As Legionnaires, the most sacred responsibility is to look out for one another and fellow veterans."

Burrell Parmer, commander of **Fred Brock American Legion Post 828** in San Antonio, on the post's monthly Buddy Checks. Launched in 2019, the program encourages posts to reach out to veterans in their area to ask how The American Legion can assist them. Download a Buddy Check toolkit to help veterans in your community: legion.org/buddycheck

SACRED STONE OF THE SOUTHWEST IS ON THE BRINK OF EXTINCTION



Centuries ago, Persians, Tibetans and Mayans considered turquoise a gemstone of the heavens, believing the striking blue stones were sacred pieces of sky. Today, the rarest and most valuable turquoise is found in the American Southwest— but the future of the blue beauty is unclear.

On a recent trip to Tucson, we spoke with fourth generation turquoise traders who explained that less than five percent of turquoise mined worldwide can be set into jewelry and only about twenty mines in the Southwest supply gem-quality turquoise. Once a thriving industry, many Southwest mines have run dry and are now closed.

We found a limited supply of turquoise from Arizona and purchased it for our **Sedona Turquoise Collection**. Inspired by the work of those ancient craftsmen and designed to showcase the exceptional blue stone, each stabilized vibrant cabochon features



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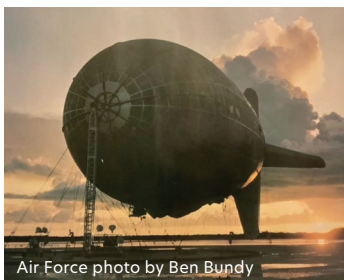
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Up, Up and Away

The article about high-altitude inflatables (Rapid Fire, September) brought back a memory from when I was an airman first class at Tyndall Air Force Base, Fla., in 1982, assigned to the 2021st Communications Squadron. I was “on loan” to the Regional Operations Control Center. We had a radar balloon at Cudjoe Key, Fla., and several times a day we’d get a call from the contractors to tell us its altitude or if for some reason the balloon was raised or lowered from the optimum altitude. We relayed this information to Fort Lee, Va. While working a mid-shift, I got a call telling me that the tether broke and the balloon was floating toward Cuba. I sent this information to Fort Lee. Later that night I was told that my call got a few generals out of bed, and eventually a fighter jet from McDill Air Force Base blew it out of the sky. It was called the Seek Skyhook Balloon-Borne Radar System. That’s a night I’ll never forget.

Steve J. Kapp, Grove, Okla.



How not to sing the anthem

I was so touched seeing those children, hands over their hearts, singing our national anthem (Lore of the Legion, October). I have a complaint as to how it is sung at today’s sporting events. This song is history, yet it is massacred by self-aggrandizing yodelers who think they can improve on it.

Debby Hyson, Baltimore County, Md.

\$8 million

Approximate amount in American Legion National Emergency Fund grants disbursed since the program was formalized in 1989, to assist veterans, posts and communities that have endured natural disasters.

Donate or apply for a grant online:
legion.org/emergency

THE PLAYLIST

American Legion videos you don't want to miss.

Commander addresses NEC

National Commander James V. “Jim” Troiola tells the Legion’s National Executive Committee that Be the One and Buddy Checks are making differences in communities.

Be the One videos available

YouTube and Vimeo playlists are now posted to share The American Legion’s message of veteran suicide prevention. Visit **legion.org/betheone/resources** to access the videos and other tools.

Albert Pujols reflects on Legion Baseball

St. Louis Cardinals star Albert Pujols became only the fourth MLB player to hit 700 career home runs in the 2022 season. In a 2015 video, he discusses his Legion Baseball years.

Visit **legion.org/magazine/videos** or subscribe to The American Legion’s YouTube channel to see, show and share other American Legion videos. Videos are also available for download at **vimeo.com/americanlegion**.

1,556

American Legion posts reporting that they operated local homeland security/disaster relief programs in the past membership year



Florida American Legion Post 103 housed Team Rubicon volunteers who helped clean up after Hurricane Ian in October.

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Whereas ...

VA reports that 1.5 million veterans live in poverty, and their poverty rates are rising, leading to increased risks of food insecurity and decreased ability to maintain healthy living ...

In 2019, 17.4 million veterans lived in the United States, of whom three-fourths were of working age due to the fact that one of the fastest-growing and youngest groups of veterans are those who served after Sept. 11, 2001, and they are more likely to have a service-connected disability ...

A report summary from the Economic Research Service (ERS) of the

Department of Agriculture found that in 2015-2019, 11.1% of working-age veterans lived in food-insecure households and 5.3% lived in households with very low food security ...

ERS also found that food-insecure households among working-age veterans differed by period and length of service, educational attainment, metropolitan status, labor for participation, household composition and disability status ...

Food insecurity was higher among working-age veterans who were disabled (33.6%), unemployed (20%) and female (13.5%), but declined with the number of active-duty periods and educational attainment ...

Be it resolved,

That The American Legion supports legislation facilitating solutions that effectively addresses the unique circumstances that lead to food insecurity among veterans ...

That The American Legion supports legislation that secures the availability of food resources and systems that serve as a pipeline in getting nutrition to veterans who are experiencing or at risk of food insecurity.

Passed, American Legion National Convention, Aug. 30-Sept. 1, 2022

Marvelous magazine

74.4%

How often subscribers of *The American Legion Magazine* (TALM) reported reading at least three of the previous four issues, according to independent auditor GfK MRI

72%

The highest number reported for any of the other 150+ surveyed U.S. magazines

19th

TALM's circulation rank

1st

TALM's place in the "best-read" rankings

Special podcast series highlights fitness, wellness

The American Legion's Tango Alpha Lima podcast is highlighting fitness and wellness in four consecutive episodes, publishing from mid-November through mid-December. The episodes feature:

Rob Wilkins, an American Legion member, Air Force veteran and member of the President's Council on Sports, Fitness & Nutrition. Wilkins discusses National Military Fitness & Wellness Month, which is November, and why all veterans should stay active.

Dan Bornstein, who has a doctorate in exercise science and is the founding director of the Center for Performance, Readiness, Resiliency and Recovery at The Citadel. He addresses the importance of physical activity as we age, specifically for veterans, and strategies to maintain a healthy lifestyle.

Jennifer Campbell, an American Legion member, Army veteran and fitness instructor. She offers tips on how to enjoy the holidays while still burning calories and remaining active.

Trina Clayeux, who is married to a retired Air Force veteran and serves as chief executive officer of Give An Hour. Founded in 2005, the nonprofit organization addresses the mental health needs of post-9/11 veterans by pairing them with counselors at no cost.

Visit legion.org/tangoalphalima to download, listen or watch these and the other more than 150 Tango Alpha Lima episodes.



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"I hope I made the veterans proud. Special thanks to my wife @LaurenBKanaan for supporting me with all my crazy ideas, my team and all the fans out there. Thank you @IRONMANtri."

INDYCAR driver Tony Kanaan, who completed the Ironman World Championship in Kona, Hawaii, in a time of 12:39:53 in October. During the 140.6-mile triathlon, Kanaan rode a red, white and blue tri-bike and promoted The American Legion's Be the One initiative.



Photo courtesy Tony Kanaan

BE THE ONE

How to promote Be the One

National Headquarters has created promotional materials to assist American Legion posts and departments that are hosting or participating in suicide-awareness events and other community activities related to the Be the One campaign.

These materials and more are available online at **betheone.org**, including:

A set of brochures One is a PDF that can be downloaded, printed, and used to educate local agencies with mental health services, community partners, government leaders and others about the Be the One campaign. The other is a Word document that can be downloaded and customized for posts to use at suicide-awareness events. The back page of the trifold is blank (other than directions, which can be deleted) so posts can add local resources.

Branding materials Posts can choose from a variety of approved American Legion Be the One materials to promote the initiative locally.

Videos A Vimeo playlist includes videos that can be downloaded and played offline, shared on social media, posted to the web and shown at post events.

QR code This can be used to direct others to information and resources related to the Be the One campaign.

American Legion Dispatch goes digital only

In January, *The American Legion Dispatch* will go to a digital-only format, reaching a greater number of officers and leaders of the organization more frequently with additional resources.

Enhancements to the monthly e-newsletter and a more robust web platform are now in production. The *Digital Dispatch* currently has over 30,000 subscribers, about double that of the printed publication. Going fully digital will ensure that more officers – such as committee chairpersons and program managers – have access to information they need, and will deliver important information in a more timely manner.

The *Digital Dispatch* is free for those who register to receive it. Subscribe at **legion.org/newsletters**; you'll be directed to sign in to your **MyLegion.org** account, then opt in to receive the *Digital Dispatch*.

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5 fitness tech trends

Fitness technology is booming, and with all the different devices and apps out there, it can be hard to keep up with the latest offerings. With holiday gifts and new year's resolutions in mind, here are some things to know about tech trends to help you achieve your fitness and wellness goals:

Mindfulness and meditation It's becoming more apparent that mindfulness improves mental health and overall well-being. There are apps that can guide you through mindfulness techniques, breathing exercises and meditation practices to enhance your mood and mental state. For many people, being able to access affordable support and skills to help battle stress and anxiety at the touch of a button is life-changing.

Tracking health metrics This isn't a new concept, but what we track and how definitely is. Smart devices work with apps to monitor and record calories burned and consumed, heart rate, metabolic rate, sleep quality, GPS location, even what type of macronutrients you're burning and how efficiently you're using them. You can take this information to your health-care provider to show trends over time and get a better sense of what does and doesn't work for you. Also, seeing changes in data can be extremely motivating.

Finding community Being accountable to someone else should be motivating too, and can drive consistency. Community forums in apps are becoming more popular, helping provide a sense of belonging. Tracking your progress can also create friendly competition and keep you on course for your fitness goals. By providing you with a digital team, apps provide a community for you even if you don't have one at home.

Assessing body changes Body scanners can measure a variety of things, including weight, fat, muscle mass, bone density and hydration. They vary in accuracy, price point and convenience. Gold standards like DEXA scanners are the most accurate on the market, but they're expensive and time-consuming. Many gyms have bioelectrical impedance analysis machines that can measure body fat and lean tissue, but they can be inconsistent because



they are based on hydration levels. New is the use of body scanners via apps, which capture a 3D body visualization that assesses changes in your body's measurements to track your progress.

Getting versatile One of the biggest changes in fitness tech is the adaptability of products. With the sheer volume of content and platforms, it can be overwhelming trying to figure out which apps to use for what, making it desirable to find a one-stop shop for all your wellness needs. Compatibility among activity trackers and smart devices has also increased, giving consumers access to the most convenient products and data on the market all in one place instead of toggling between several apps.

Army veteran Jennifer Campbell is a certified personal trainer with a master's degree in nutrition education. She is past commander of the California American Legion's 24th District and Hollywood Post 43.

Spending
20 minutes by a
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Source: University of Connecticut



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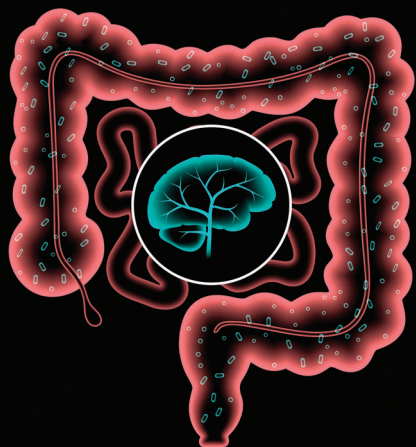
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The inner path

Your brain and your gut are more connected than you think.

BY LANCE FRAZER

Media Bakery

The vagus nerve is a two-way highway connecting the brain and the gastrointestinal tract, and evidence suggests it may also be a path to treatments for a variety of medical conditions.

"The brain and gastrointestinal tract are innately connected," says Whitney Linsenmeyer, assistant professor of nutrition and dietetics at Saint Louis University and spokeswoman for the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics. It's not just one link, but "multiple types of links in the gut-brain axis," she says. That axis is a growing area of research into whether problems on one end can be treated by attention to the other.

"We know the bacteria and fungi that live in our intestines affect our overall health, our metabolism, our disease risk, even our mood," says Julie Stefanski, a registered dietary nutritionist and Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics spokeswoman. Research links a greater variety of friendly microbes in the large intestine to the likelihood of better overall health.

Michael Kaplitt, professor of neurological surgery at Weill Cornell Medicine, is leading a

three-year study based on evidence that Parkinson's disease originates among cells in the gut and travels up neurons to the brain, and whether it could be prevented by blocking the path along the vagus nerve. "We need to pay more attention to gut health," Kaplitt says. "It comes down to one simple point: when your gut is not healthy, you put your brain at risk."

Jane Foster, professor of psychiatry at the University of Texas Southwestern, calls it "a numbers game. There are 100 trillion microbes in your gut. What we have yet to do is to determine how to influence the microbes to make things better."

She says the future is "based on awareness that mental health is built on our own individual biology." If people can be convinced that taking care of one part of their body can positively affect other parts as well, "we'll see a very different perspective on many aspects of human health."

Lance Frazer is a California-based freelance writer specializing in health and medicine, science, nature and the environment.

How to strengthen the gut-brain connection

- Eat probiotic-rich foods like yogurt, and prebiotic foods like fruits, vegetables and grains
- Maintain a healthy weight
- Drink adequate fluids
- Exercise regularly
- Work to manage stress, anxiety and depression

What worsens gut health

- Alcohol consumption
- Tobacco use
- Poor sleep habits

Learn more by searching "probiotics" at the National Institutes of Health site:

[nih.gov](https://www.nih.gov)



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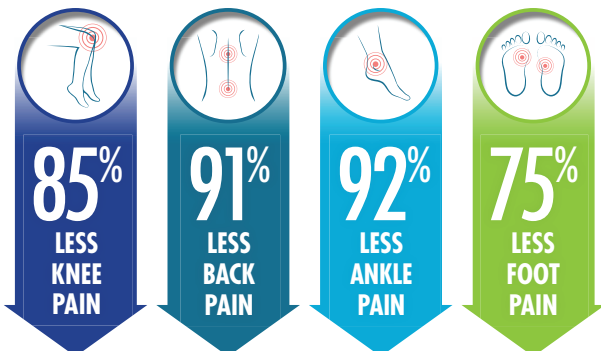
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HONORED IN VIETNAM

BY PATRICK
H. BRADY

*Huey hero, humanitarian, pioneer
Maj. Charles Kelly memorialized.*



Photo courtesy Patrick H. Brady

Some time ago, during a visit to the battlefields of Vietnam, I noticed that many were littered with statues of dead and surrendering Americans. A rather blunt testimonial to our defeat. Whatever the outcome of that war, there can be no question of the humanitarianism of the GI, unmatched in the annals of warfare. And it took place during battle. He fixed as he fought, vaccinated, cured, educated and built in the middle of a war. He cared for, and about, those people. What other army has ever done that? Humanitarianism was our great victory in Vietnam, a victory lost in the bedlam and dishonesty of the media.

As I looked down on the cement corpses of fallen GIs, it occurred to me that Vietnam may have hosted the only war we fought where no memorial to an American warrior was ever raised. In subsequent visits, I noticed that every physical trace of our presence had been erased – except in the hearts of the people who remembered the GI and graciously welcomed us back. It seemed to me that the time might be ripe to finally honor the GI for all he did for those wonderful people. What more representative a memorial could there be than one honoring Maj. Charles Kelly?

Kelly was in command of the 57th Medical Detachment, Helicopter Ambulance, in 1964, call sign “Dust Off.” It was to become the most famous call sign in the war. Kelly, at the time, was the only soldier to wear all four badges: the

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“When I have your wounded.”

Maj. Charles Kelly, responding to pleas that he withdraw from enemy fire during a July 1, 1964, rescue mission in Vietnam. They were his last words.

LEFT: Shortly before his death, and as they were preparing to part, Kelly presented to Brig. Gen. Joe Stilwell a plaque containing 57th Helicopter Ambulance tail numbers and red crosses. Photo courtesy Patrick H. Brady

Combat Infantry Badge, the Combat Medical Badge, Jump Wings and the Aviator Badge. He had been badly wounded in World War II. He also had been court-martialed four times, which says something about his personality.

At the time, the 57th covered Vietnam with five UH1 helicopters: Hueys. The primary mission: U.S. casualties. About 16,000 GIs were in country mostly as advisers at the time, and they suffered few casualties. Prior to Kelly, the 57th did not fly a lot.

As a result, Kelly’s boss, Brig. Gen. Joe Stilwell, decided he would commandeer helicopter ambulances for sundry missions, using portable red crosses in case of a medical mission. Kelly was outraged and let Stilwell know it. Kelly told those of us who were his pilots that we would have to prove no one could do the mission as well as we could, or we would lose the resource – and he led the way. Flying in all kinds of weather, and at night (at the time, no one else flew at night) into the battlefield, rescuing all in need of care – men, women, children, enemy as well as friendly, even a few scout dogs. The Dust Off mission was dedicated to American casualties, but 90% of patients carried under Kelly were Vietnamese.

He became a legend, flying up to 150 hours a month. Entire villages turned out for his pickups, and a Pulitzer Prize-winning writer began covering him. Because our night missions

were unprecedented, many thought Dust Off was specially trained for night flying. One commander ordered a staff study of how we did it. The study concluded that night missions were too dangerous. Dust Off overcame these dangers, pioneering night flight and inspiring us, subsequently, to own the night.

The issue of portable red crosses was still pending in late June 1964 when, as Stilwell was leaving country, Kelly presented him with a plaque containing our tail numbers, saying, “Here, general. You wanted my helicopters so damn bad, take them.”

Stilwell smiled. The portable red cross issue was decisively settled a few days later.

On July 1, 1964, Kelly was called into a “secure” area for urgent patients. As he landed, the enemy – often mixed in with friendlies – cut loose. The friendlies screamed at Kelly to get out. He replied calmly in his stubborn southern drawl, “When I have your wounded.” He then curled up from a single bullet shot through his heart. He was the 149th American to die in Vietnam. The ship curled with him, and the rotors beat it to pieces.

Vietnamese and American hierarchy alike attended Kelly’s funeral. Stilwell wept when told of Kelly’s death. In a December 1966 article in *McCall’s* titled “A Gift of Love,” Gen. William Westmoreland chose Charles Kelly out of thousands as a beautiful example of “the

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greatness of the human spirit.” He said Kelly was “a living legend” who stood out among those who gave America “more than they have taken from her.” And people like Kelly are still giving, for when the going gets rough and an extra ounce of effort is needed, Maj. Kelly’s last words still shine brightly and are an inspiration, the combat standard of all medical resources to this day: “When I have your wounded.”

Westmoreland agreed that we could do our mission better than anyone else, and we kept the resource. We never again heard of portable red crosses. More helicopter ambulance units started arriving in Vietnam. The medical helicopter was firmly under medical control, as it should be. During the six months that Kelly commanded the 57th, he revolutionized battlefield evacuation forever.

I have known most of the Medal of Honor recipients from the Vietnam War. None of us had the lasting impact of Charles Kelly. He spearheaded the humanitarian effort in Vietnam, championing the use of American medical resources to care for Vietnamese people on both sides of the conflict. The result was the rescue of more than 900,000 casualties and survival rates unequaled to this day. The majority of patients were Vietnamese.

A memorial to Kelly would be unifying and provide closure, highlighting the compassion our soldiers had for the people of Vietnam.

A memorial was designed, and on April 28, 2022, Charles Kelly Jr. led a small group of patriots through the jungle to a location south of Vĩnh Long in the Mekong Delta in Vietnam. The mission was to get as near as possible to coordinates XS05190: the exact spot where Kelly died. The trek to the site proved to be something of an adventure. We were on what was more of a trail than a road and, much to our dismay, we encountered bridges too frail for our vehicle. Our guide was able to acquire motorbikes with fertilizer bins that solved the bridge problem but were a bit rough on our rumps and olfactory bulbs.

The painful and odorous ride ended some 300 yards from the paddy where Kelly landed on his last mission. It was a quiet, peaceful day, a beautiful setting, unlike the day Kelly was killed.

We placed the memorial in a secure spot beside a trail – perhaps the first and only memorial to an American soldier in Vietnam.

One member of the group described the spot as a sacred space. President Abraham Lincoln talked about these in his address at the dedication of the national cemetery at Gettysburg. In the military, they can have a special meaning – places like the smoke-filled Belleau Woods, where Marine Corps Sgt. Maj. Dan Daly, in an act that would earn him a Navy Cross to accompany his two Medals of Honor, yelled at his Marines, “Come on, you sons of bitches, do you want to live forever?”

The memorial is rather humble when compared to what Kelly accomplished. Perhaps it will become sacred and enhanced in the future as visitors become familiar with the incredible humanitarian effort led by Kelly and the American GI in Vietnam.

For the past seven years, Sen. John Cornyn, R-Texas, has sought to honor the Dust Off crews of Vietnam with a Congressional Gold Medal.

Consider the merits: More than 900,000 rescues, and of the 1,400 Dust Off pilots who served in Vietnam, 90 were killed and 380 wounded. Of the 2,000 crew members, 121 were killed and 380 wounded. Of 140 authorized helicopters, 199 were destroyed.

Dust Off represented the most dangerous air missions in Vietnam, perhaps in any war, with over a third of the crews becoming casualties in their work. Additionally, air ambulance losses due to enemy fire were 3.3 times that of other helicopter missions. Yet a typical Dust Off unit with three flyable aircraft (117% of their birds were hit by enemy fire every month) was able to evacuate more than 21,000 patients in nine and a half months – at the cost of 26 Purple Hearts.

Name me another unit recipient of the Congressional Gold Medal, of any war, that has outperformed the Dust Off crews in Vietnam. 🌿

Patrick H. Brady is a retired Army major general and Medal of Honor recipient. He commanded the 57th Medical Detachment A and the 54th Medical Detachment during the Vietnam War. He flew more than 2,500 combat missions and evacuated more than 5,000 wounded.



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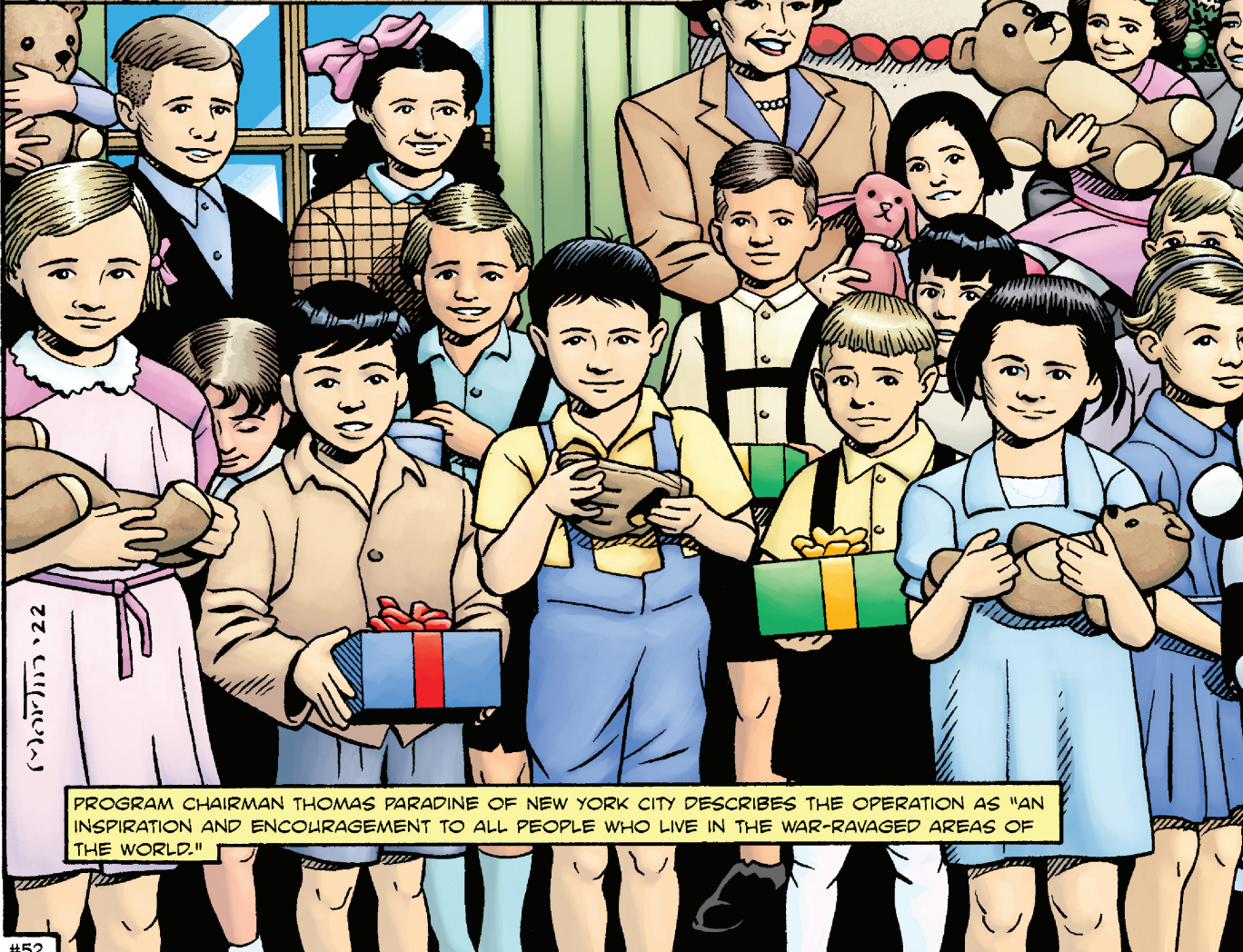
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WINTER, 1949. 4 1/2 YEARS AFTER THE ALLIED VICTORY IN WORLD WAR II, EUROPE REMAINS IN SHAMBLES.

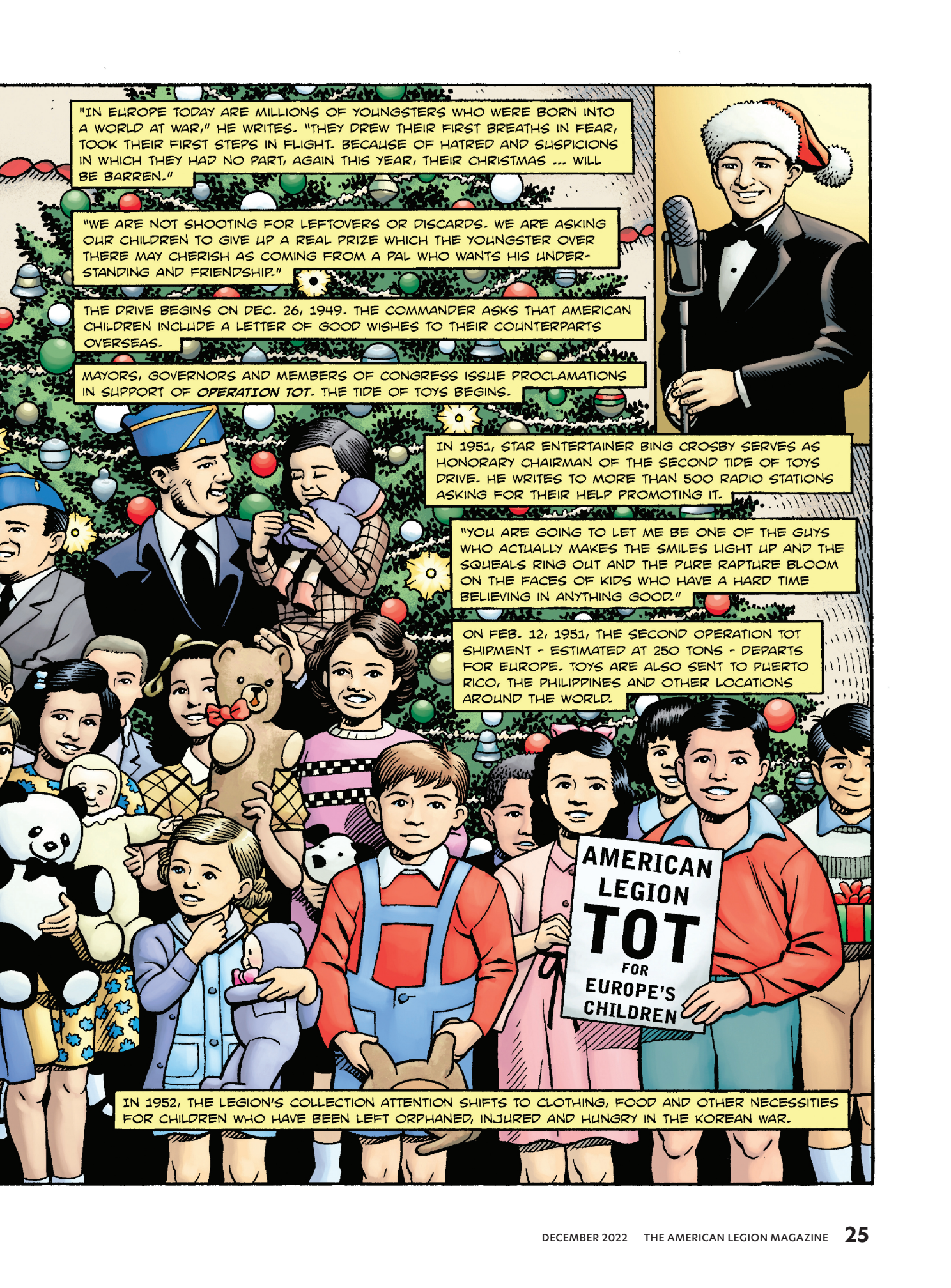
THE PLIGHT OF CHILDREN OVERSEAS WEIGHS ON THE HEART OF AMERICAN LEGION NATIONAL COMMANDER GEORGE N. CRAIG.

HIS SOLUTION: A NATIONWIDE "TIDE OF TOYS" COLLECTION. ON DEC. 14, HE CALLS ON AMERICAN LEGION POSTS ACROSS THE COUNTRY TO ASSEMBLE TEAMS AND BEGIN A MASSIVE TOY DRIVE THE DAY AFTER CHRISTMAS - WHEN U.S. KIDS ARE MOST LIKELY TO HAVE ONE EXTRA NEW TOY THEY CAN SEND TO EUROPE.

ON FEB. 7, THE FIRST SHIPMENT OF SOME 900,000 TOYS - NOT QUITE A THIRD OF THE ENTIRE COLLECTION THAT WINTER - HEADS OVERSEAS FROM PHILADELPHIA.



PROGRAM CHAIRMAN THOMAS PARADINE OF NEW YORK CITY DESCRIBES THE OPERATION AS "AN INSPIRATION AND ENCOURAGEMENT TO ALL PEOPLE WHO LIVE IN THE WAR-RAVAGED AREAS OF THE WORLD."



"IN EUROPE TODAY ARE MILLIONS OF YOUNGSTERS WHO WERE BORN INTO A WORLD AT WAR," HE WRITES. "THEY DREW THEIR FIRST BREATHS IN FEAR, TOOK THEIR FIRST STEPS IN FLIGHT. BECAUSE OF HATRED AND SUSPICIONS IN WHICH THEY HAD NO PART, AGAIN THIS YEAR, THEIR CHRISTMAS ... WILL BE BARREN."

"WE ARE NOT SHOOTING FOR LEFTOVERS OR DISCARDS. WE ARE ASKING OUR CHILDREN TO GIVE UP A REAL PRIZE WHICH THE YOUNGSTER OVER THERE MAY CHERISH AS COMING FROM A PAL WHO WANTS HIS UNDERSTANDING AND FRIENDSHIP."

THE DRIVE BEGINS ON DEC. 26, 1949. THE COMMANDER ASKS THAT AMERICAN CHILDREN INCLUDE A LETTER OF GOOD WISHES TO THEIR COUNTERPARTS OVERSEAS.

MAYORS, GOVERNORS AND MEMBERS OF CONGRESS ISSUE PROCLAMATIONS IN SUPPORT OF OPERATION TOT. THE TIDE OF TOYS BEGINS.

IN 1951, STAR ENTERTAINER BING CROSBY SERVES AS HONORARY CHAIRMAN OF THE SECOND TIDE OF TOYS DRIVE. HE WRITES TO MORE THAN 500 RADIO STATIONS ASKING FOR THEIR HELP PROMOTING IT.

"YOU ARE GOING TO LET ME BE ONE OF THE GUYS WHO ACTUALLY MAKES THE SMILES LIGHT UP AND THE SQUEALS RING OUT AND THE PURE RAPTURE BLOOM ON THE FACES OF KIDS WHO HAVE A HARD TIME BELIEVING IN ANYTHING GOOD."

ON FEB. 12, 1951, THE SECOND OPERATION TOT SHIPMENT - ESTIMATED AT 250 TONS - DEPARTS FOR EUROPE. TOYS ARE ALSO SENT TO PUERTO RICO, THE PHILIPPINES AND OTHER LOCATIONS AROUND THE WORLD.

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LEGION
TOT
FOR
EUROPE'S
CHILDREN

IN 1952, THE LEGION'S COLLECTION ATTENTION SHIFTS TO CLOTHING, FOOD AND OTHER NECESSITIES FOR CHILDREN WHO HAVE BEEN LEFT ORPHANED, INJURED AND HUNGRY IN THE KOREAN WAR.



*Coast Guard, industry, community
vow to never forget lessons of
a disaster that changed everything.*

VALDEZ vs. COMPLACENCY

BY JEFF STOFFER

More than three decades have passed since the *Exxon Valdez* supertanker hit Bligh Reef and dumped nearly 11 million gallons of crude oil into Alaska's Prince William Sound.

At the time the largest tanker spill in history, the March 24, 1989, catastrophe was an international spectacle, horrifying millions of television viewers worldwide as oil-soaked seabirds, seals, otters and other animals were plucked – dead and alive – from the black, slick and contaminated shore. Commercial fishing was choked off. Tourists were replaced by reporters, camera crews, politicians and response teams that nearly quadrupled the small community's population for months. Oil bled into about 1,300 miles of coastline and drifted more than

450 miles from the incident site. Blame spread even farther.

How it occurred and who was responsible have been debated, decided, disputed and documented, from courtrooms to coffee shops. What's happened since then is a story – like airplanes that land safely – that has largely gone unreported. Acting on lessons from the 1989 spill and its aftermath, the U.S. Coast Guard, the Prince William Sound Regional Citizens' Advisory Council (RCAC), the oil and fishing industries, and the general community around the Port of Valdez have worked diligently to prevent future disasters, prepare and train in case it does happen again, and rebuild trust among community members and each other.

Those on the front lines of that complex



Fishing crews receive training every year to ensure they are ready to help respond to an oil spill. Photo by Robert Glassmaker

Alyeska's Ship Escort/Response Vessel System (SERVS)

Alyeska developed SERVS after the *Exxon Valdez* incident as a way to prevent spills, with large escort tugs, trained response crews on duty around the clock and well-maintained spill-response equipment ready.

mission understand the enemy that caught their predecessors off guard. "People got complacent," says 74-year-old fisherman Pat Day, thinking back to the years leading up to the spill. "The equipment ... they didn't have much. What they did have was not ready, not maintained. The old tugs, they were deficient ... There is no comparison between now and what was."

"That's what got us into the mess in '89," Coast Guard Marine Safety Unit (MSU) Valdez Cmdr. Patrick Drayer says. "Yeah, maybe they couldn't have been prepared for what happened – the worst case at the time – but they weren't prepared for something lesser either. If they had everything available, they could have mounted a much better response. But it took them a long time to get stuff mobilized and on the water, able to respond."

"As we move past the 30th anniversary of the spill, constant vigilance is needed to prevent a return to the complacency that allowed the *Exxon Valdez* spill to happen," the RCAC reported in a 2019 publication, "Then & Now: 30 Years after the *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill."

Almost everything that went wrong in 1989 guides today's protocol. The spill led to passage of the Oil Pollution Act of 1990, which ultimately required double-hull designs for oil tankers and a state law mandating that no fewer than two tugboats escort laden tankers from the Alyeska Valdez Marine Terminal all the way into the Gulf of Alaska (the lone tug escorting *Exxon Valdez* turned back several miles short of Bligh Reef).

The 1990 law and a contract with Alyeska Pipeline Service Co., which operates the pipeline and terminal, gave birth to the RCAC, whose director of programs is former Coast Guard MSU Valdez Commanding Officer Joe Lally. Response teams are assembled, training exercises practiced on a frequent schedule, and an array of stakeholders participate. "We represent the public and make sure that their concerns are heard and issues are resolved," Lally explains, noting that public communication was a problem in 1989 – one that is remembered. "There was limited interaction with the public."

The Coast Guard is an *ex officio* member of the council but in the event of a disaster has authority to assume operational leadership; unclear lines of authority were commonly blamed for the slow response in 1989.

"We are there to ensure that all these different players are engaging with transparency, with forthrightness," Drayer says. "Nobody involved in the oil-transportation business wants this to happen again. The community doesn't want it to happen. The Coast Guard doesn't want it to happen. None of the regulatory agencies. The tribal governments don't. So it's not just the Coast Guard. The EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) participates. The Bureau of Land Management participates. The state regulatory agencies all participate, and we all come together."

The council is composed of community volunteers whose lives and lifestyles are inherently connected to Prince William Sound



Pat Day is among more than 300 commercial fishermen who train on a consistent basis to respond in the event of an oil spill in Prince William Sound.

Photo by Jeric Wilhelmsen

Measures of preparation

- Establishment of industry-funded citizen oversight council
- Mandatory and detailed contingency plans for preventing and cleaning up spills
- Measures to reduce the risk of human error

and its surrounding environment – commercial fishing to subsistence hunting to tourism – in a corner of Alaska often accessible only by air or water. Twenty-five feet of snow a year is not unusual.

“You don’t go through Valdez,” says Scott Randall, commander of American Legion Post 2 there. “You come to it or away from it. We are the end of the road.”

Valdez is also across the sound from the terminus of the 800-mile Trans-Alaska Pipeline that transports crude oil from the North Slope to the northernmost ice-free port on the continent. The volume of supertankers filling up at the terminal has declined from about four a day in 1989 to fewer than one a day now, and their capacities are smaller, but the threat of a disaster always lurks. “The risks are still there,” Lally says. “If the same incident happened today, you could have the same amount of oil released, or more.”

Five-plus hours from Anchorage by car when roads are passable, Valdez is a community that has learned the importance of sticking together, whether it’s an environmental crisis like the earthquake and tsunami that struck in 1964, the big oil spill or just a bad winter. “Valdez is nice,” Randall says. “Community spirit is here. After you get to know people, you really care about each

other. Everybody binds together in the harder times, and that’s really nice.”

A veteran of the Oregon Army National Guard and former Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) reservist who deployed to landslides, fires, floods and the Pentagon attack after 9/11, Randall has lived in Valdez, hometown to his wife Theresa, since 2006. Like many in the community, she helped with the 1989 cleanup, and the couple later met through FEMA relief work in the lower 48.

Randall had known of the 1989 oil spill through TV news. Once he became a resident, he discovered the long-term effect of it. “After moving up here, I found out how much (the spill) did and how it has influenced a lot of decisions,” Randall says. “Safety, prevention, response ... those are still very large topics.”

The history of Valdez can be divided into some epic chapters: before the earthquake and tsunami; reconstruction and relocation of the town after that disaster; completion of the enormous pipeline; the spill of 1989; and today. The town has two museums, one that focuses on time before the pipeline and another that covers the years since. “When the terminal came, it became an oil town,” Day says. “There weren’t a lot of people here before.”

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Workers steam-blast rocks and wash down shorelines soaked in crude oil from the leaking Exxon Valdez in 1989. Coast Guard photo

Day was born in nearby Cordova at a time when Valdez had no doctor. Since then, he's weathered many of the community's dramas, as the son of a man who arrived at 18 to start a fishing career.

At 16, Day had already been in the family fishing business for four years and was a high-school junior when the magnitude-9.2 earthquake, underwater landslide and tsunami obliterated the original town and killed 31 residents, including two of his uncles.

"The earthquake was much more massive for the city of Valdez," says Day, whose family was forced to relocate five miles west to the city's current location. "We didn't have any water. We didn't have any services. Most people left." The Army Corps of Engineers and the Alaska National Guard installed emergency utilities and patrolled what was left of the town, which is now uninhabitable due to unstable ground.

Valdez slowly grew back at its new location and boomed in the early 1970s when the pipeline came in. Supertankers were soon flowing through the narrows, past Bligh Reef and an iceberg-calving glacier. Commercial fishing had always been an economic mainstay in the sound, and hatcheries had been built to keep numbers strong. The hatcheries, like most of the area around Valdez, were spared many effects of the spill, which occurred about 40 kilometers away and spread westward. The fishing, however, has never fully recovered, and the big herring runs of pre-spill years have all but vanished.

Oil is still out there

RCAC Programs Director Joe Lally keeps a jar of oil recently recovered from under the shoreline of some of Prince William Sound's most affected areas. It is, in fact, some of the oil that spilled from *Exxon Valdez* more than 32 years ago.

"Typically, you don't see it," he says. "It's submerged, buried under substrate - cobblestone, sand or gravel." The residue is found around some islands and bays, he says, "and it's as fresh as it was that day."

When he was commander of MSU Valdez, he says, "I used to give a small jar of the oil with a postcard of the grounded *Exxon Valdez* to the junior officers and enlisted members departing the unit to remind them of their role in completing the Coast Guard's Marine Environmental Response mission."

"A lot of tourists don't understand that the ship's name was *Valdez*, and the town they know is Valdez, but the spill didn't happen in Valdez," Randall explains. "It happened out on Bligh Reef."

During the cleanup, however, Valdez was a key staging area, and almost everyone with a boat was put to work. "There are still people here in town who lived through it whose livelihoods and lives were devastated by the oil spill," Lally says. "At the same time, as we get further and further away from the spill, those people are less and less. But people still remember, and they still talk about the *Exxon Valdez* oil spill. They are very much in tune with what goes on at the terminal, with the tankers and everything else. It's ingrained in people."

Dozens of commercial fishermen in the area are also now on contract to convert their boats to handle spills if called upon. "The spill (of 1989) was of such a magnitude, they couldn't do it alone, and then they were hiring anyone with a boat, period," Randall says. "A lot of the fishing vessels took all their nets off, all the fishing equipment, and they were loaded down with absorbents, booms, you name it. A fishing vessel is capable of pulling great loads, lifting huge amounts and dragging long lines."

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Commercial fishermen also had a major stake in getting the oil spill cleaned up quickly. “They had more vested in it,” Randall says. “Yes, the pipeline lost money, but they lost careers, houses, families – their livelihoods – for the next x amount of years.”

The ordeal also eroded public trust. New standards, laws, training requirements, contingency plans and community involvement has built a lot of that back, Lally and Drayer agree. “It’s much better than it was in ’89,” Lally says. “There’s still things we have to work through, like any sort of relationship, but trust-wise and transparency-wise, there’s a night-and-day difference in the level that’s out there.”

“I have to say they do a pretty good job,” says Day, who is among more than 300 commercial fishermen throughout Prince William Sound who train for spill response. “There is no comparison between now and what was. I think they are prepared better than anybody else. There is little doubt in my mind about that. That don’t make it failsafe. You always have to be careful.”

Advances in technology – from radar dependence in 1989 to satellite positioning today – have vastly improved the ability to monitor traffic on the sound. The Coast Guard has five units and about 105 active-duty and 20 reservists in Valdez who carry out nearly all of the branch’s fundamental missions – from law enforcement to rescue to regulatory compliance and pollution control. A vessel traffic system there helps oversee shipping in and out of the port and sounds an alarm when any big ship gets within a nautical mile of Bligh Reef or other obstacles.

And the Coast Guard chips in whenever asked to support the community, including Post 2, Randall says. “They help us with anything we ask,” he says, noting that the station’s personnel help with mowing and landscaping at the post’s Veterans Memorial Park and raises and lowers the flag during patriotic ceremonies.

Alyeska, a major employer in Valdez, is also a supporter of community events and initiatives, the commander says.

Neither Randall, Lally nor Drayer were anywhere near Prince William Sound at the time of the spill. But today the disaster has a large influence on those who were there at the time, as



See a video of the community that won’t forget the spill of ’89. legion.org/magazine

well as those who came later. “The community has this mindset and this history – it’s happened before, and we don’t want it to happen again,” Drayer says.

The *Exxon Valdez* disaster is also never far from the minds of today’s supertanker operators, who are held to strict spill-response standards. “Our mariners are professional and focused,” Drayer says. “I can’t stress that enough. They know the history of *Exxon Valdez* as well as anyone else.”

These days, big cruise ships bring tourists through the narrows and into Valdez, a picture-postcard town on the edge of a pristine sound, at the feet of towering mountain slopes. They visit for the scenery and the hospitality, perhaps to see what has happened since the place was on the news every night.

“One thing it did was it brought a lot of people here during the cleanup and forever after,” Day says of the spill. “It made it a really known place. A lot of people have come here to see the wildlife – not particularly the oil spill – but to come see if it’s cleaned up. It’s a beautiful place, and it attracts people.”

And today, unlike the time before the spill, it is surrounded with people, resources and practices ready to keep it that way in the event something big and terrible should happen again. “Prevention is the key,” Lally says. “An ounce of prevention is worth a billion dollars for a spill of that size. All that progress that was made between then and now It’s our job now to keep complacency from creeping back in, and work to ensure there isn’t any walk-back of resources or capabilities.”

“I think they are more prepared than anyplace,” says Day, who knows from experience that big disasters can happen more than once in a lifetime. 🌿

Jeff Stoffer is editor of The American Legion Magazine.

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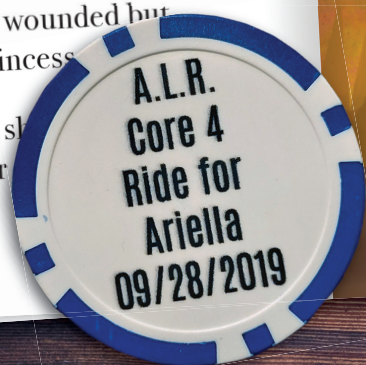
Warrior Princess Ariella's Knights of Leather and Steel

hurt the princess but
to attack the dragon.

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Riders who helped girl with cancer aim to extend their messages.

BY JEFF STOFFER

Sons of The American Legion member Kevin Murray of Annville, Pa., learned in 2019 of a 2½-year-old girl with a rare form of cancer – retinoblastoma – that has required chemotherapy, long stays at care facilities and prosthetic eyes that need to be replaced as she grows. Only a portion of the costs were covered by insurance. So Murray and a friend met with Ariella's parents, Brandt and Terina Coyne, and offered support through the American Legion Riders.

That moment has led Murray on a journey he could never have imagined: to become author of a children's book he hopes will inspire even more kids facing such challenges. He didn't know he had a book in him, he explained, but Ariella "brings out the best in a person."

Riders chapters throughout Pennsylvania's Region 7 have more than just ridden along – raising funds through a dedicated ride, conducting a poker-chip donation challenge last spring and supporting publication of "The Tale of Princess Warrior Ariella and the Dreaded Cancerous Dragon." The story arose from notes Murray took as he promoted Ariella's cause to his fellow Legion Riders, who were enthusiastically on board.

Starting out with four chapters – Annville 559, Hershey 386, Campbelltown 831 and Hummelstown 265 – the Riders were able to generate \$3,600 in a 2019 "ALR Core Four Ride for Ariella." A token of the ride was a little white poker chip, which Ariella handed out to participants as they embarked.

In November 2021, the cancer returned, and another tumor was found in her leg, which has since been successfully treated after bone-marrow operations. The Legion Riders returned to her side for the second round of her ordeal, but this time in greater number.

At the January 2022 ride-planning meeting for Region 7, Murray posed a question. “I basically pulled this coin out of my vest and said, ‘How many remember this?’ There were about 50 Riders there, and about 12 of them actually had (the chips from the 2019 ride) in their pockets.”

The 50-some chapters of Region 7 were called upon to conduct a “Mile of Hope” campaign that generated \$5,850 last spring to help the family, whose challenges grew more difficult in the second round, including more days away from work for Brandt, and Terina being on medical leave since Ariella was first diagnosed.

The Riders, and the overall community, have been vital to the family’s ability to cope with two rounds of cancer for the 6-year-old, who is still receiving treatments. “It’s so amazing,” said Terina, who has four other children at home. “It’s been a godsend, the way people get together. With so much going on, it’s nice to know people are there when you need them.”

About 600 Legion Riders helped in the 2022 effort – thus the “Knights of Leather and Steel” are central to the tale of Warrior Princess Ariella.

Murray showed his notes to illustrator Yvonne Koons, who told him, “If you don’t make this a kids’ story, there’s something wrong with you.” Without Koons and Rogue Graphic Design of Mechanicsburg, Pa., which donated design and illustration, Murray said, the project would not have been possible. Nina Mkhoiani was the illustrator, and Ariane Laurent-Smith edited it.

Murray crafted the story about brave Princess Ariella and her motorcycle-riding “Knights of Leather and Steel” (who bear a strong resemblance to Legion Riders). They help the princess fight and conquer the cancerous dragon not once, but twice. The story is set in a magical kingdom where Princess Ariella is born to a king and queen. She later is challenged to fight the cancerous dragon. On her way to battle, she passes through the Woods of Leather and Steel, where black-vested soldiers on motorcycles



Learn more about “The Tale of Princess Warrior Ariella and the Dreaded Cancerous Dragon” online: warriorariella.com

offer their services. Moved by the first victory over the dragon, the princess knights the soldiers, who grow to 600 strong. The dragon challenges her a second time, and the knights help her win again, which is what Ariella is doing now. “When you read the story, you will find there are little things that connect with what has actually happened with her,” Murray said.

In the final pages of the book, Warrior Princess Ariella is seen in her own black vest (Ariella was presented a Legion Riders vest in May) among her knights. “I told her if she ever feels like she’s alone, she can just put that vest on because we’re always nearby,” Murray said.

Murray and the Riders stay in constant contact with the family. “She knows that a lot of people care about her, are thinking about her and praying for her,” her mother said.

Sales receipts are split between pediatric cancer units at Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia and Penn State Health Children’s Hospital on behalf of Ariella. They are \$15 each, and sponsorships from the Annville American Legion Family of Post 559, Hershey Legion Riders Chapter 386, Palmyra Sons of The American Legion Squadron 72 and Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 7530 in Mechanicsburg ensure that most of the sales go directly to the care units where, said Terina, “Reading a book like that gets (kids) to understand there are others out there who are like them.”

The book is dedicated to Murray’s father, a Korean War veteran, who is quoted in the forward: “Success is not measured by what you do for yourself. Success is measured by what you do for others.” 🌿

Jeff Stoffer is editor of The American Legion Magazine.

MAJOR RICHARD STAR ACT

H.R. 1282/S. 344

"Currently, these disabled veterans are subject to a draconian offset where their retirement pay is reduced for every dollar of VA disability received.

The American Legion calls upon Congress to end this unjust 'tax' on America's disabled veterans and pass the Major Richard Star Act now."

Then-American Legion National Commander Paul E. Dillard, in a statement after the measure broke the 290-mark of co-sponsors in the House on Aug. 12

This legislation seeks to correct an unfair tax affecting more than 50,300 combat-injured veterans. For them, VA disability compensation is deducted from their DoD retirement pay. Disability benefits and retirement pay are two very different forms of compensation - from two different budgets - for two separate purposes. The American Legion has long sought an end to the "disabled veterans tax" that has at times been mischaracterized as "double-dipping."

H.R. 1282 specifically seeks "to amend title 10, United States Code, to expand eligibility to certain military retirees for concurrent receipt of veterans' disability compensation and retired pay or combat-related special compensation, and for other purposes."

Relentless American Legion grassroots advocacy has led to strong bipartisan support for the bill. The House version by mid-September had 308 co-sponsors, 115 Republicans and 191 Democrats. S. 344 had 63 co-sponsors, 18 Republicans and 42 Democrats.

By exceeding 290 co-sponsors in the House, the measure qualifies for placement on the "consensus calendar," which provides an alternative and generally smoother route to a floor vote on the basis of its bipartisan support.

50,300

Approximate number of veterans with disability ratings of less than 50% whose VA compensation is deducted dollar-for-dollar from their DoD retirement pay

42,000

Approximate number of veterans with VA disability ratings of 50% or greater who currently qualify for concurrent receipt of retirement pay and disability compensation



Scan this QR code with the camera on your smartphone to support The American Legion in its effort to end the "disabled veterans tax."

The American Legion's support for concurrent receipt for all qualified military retirees is authorized through Resolution 224, "Support for Concurrent Receipt of Military Retirement Pay and VA Disability Compensation," passed in 2016 at the 98th National Convention.



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Property and casualty insurance provided by United Services Automobile Association (USAA), USAA Casualty Insurance Company, USAA General Indemnity Company, Garrison Property and Casualty Insurance Company, based in San Antonio, Texas; USAA Limited (UK) and USAA S.A. (Europe) and is available only to persons eligible for property and casualty group membership. Each company has sole financial responsibility for its own products.

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The everlasting gift

The American Legion's Office of Charitable Giving offers opportunities to support programs, services for generations to come.

The American Legion is built on values, programs and services no other organization fulfills with the same effectiveness.

- American Legion service officers by far assist more veterans than anyone else with VA disability claims and health-care benefits.
- No other organization teaches responsible citizenship and respect for U.S. democracy like The American Legion, through Boys State, Boys Nation, Oratorical contests and flag education.
- In times of natural disaster, The American Legion delivers funds, relief supplies and labor to help communities get back to normal.
- Operation Comfort Warriors brings a measure of joy to men and women receiving care for illnesses and wounds suffered in military service.
- The American Legion also leads hundreds of veteran and military-spouse career events each year, supports programs to assist homeless veterans, works with commands to make sure active-duty personnel are treated with respect, and honors those who sacrificed in uniform to keep our nation safe.

To fulfill such a gamut of purposes - and more - tax-deductible, charitable contributions are essential. And one of the best ways to ensure these services continue uninterrupted in communities, states and the nation is through planned giving.

"Planned giving is the process of thoughtfully including a charitable gift in your estate plans," American Legion National Treasurer Shawn Long says. "It is a method of establishing your legacy of support for the organization you love while providing for your current financial needs. You can help ensure that The American Legion has a lasting impact for the generations that follow by helping programs and services that enhance the lives of those we serve."



Photo by Josh Marshall

Philanthropy and individual gifts have been essential to help The American Legion improve millions of lives over the decades. In 1924 and 1925, for instance, the organization raised over \$5 million - more than \$83 million in today's

dollars - to establish the American Legion Endowment Fund, which pays for Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation services and cash grants for military and veteran families facing unexpected financial crises, through the Temporary Financial Assistance program. Millions of veterans and children have been helped through the endowment, which was renamed the American Legion Veterans & Children Foundation (V&CF) in 2019 to better reflect the people it helps.

For supporters who want to see a portion of their estates used for such programs as suicide prevention (the Be the One campaign), Boys Nation, Oratorical contests, Junior Shooting Sports, career events, flag education, troop support and other aspects of Legion advocacy, American Legion Charities, Inc., is a carefully managed 501(c)(3) that funds programs most in need of support at the time.

Other funds planners can consider include:

American Legion Child Welfare Foundation, Inc.

A separate 501(c)(3), the Child Welfare Foundation awards grants to nonprofit organizations that contribute to the physical, mental, emotional and spiritual needs of children and youth.

American Legion Scholarship Trust In 1995, Samsung established this trust in gratitude to veterans of the Korean War. It has since expanded to provide college scholarships for Boys and Girls State participants whose parents are U.S. military veterans from any war involving America.

American Legion Legacy Scholarship Fund This fund provides scholarship money for children whose parents died on active duty since Sept. 11, 2001, or received a VA disability rating of 50% or greater.

Operation Comfort Warriors

This American Legion program provides comfort, rehabilitation and other items to wounded, injured or ill servicemembers and veterans. OCW purchases items not normally provided by the government, such as art and sports therapy equipment, games, electronics, recreational opportunities and entertainment.

National Emergency Fund This fund directs immediate cash grants to Legionnaires and Sons of The American Legion members affected by natural disasters. American Legion posts are also eligible for emergency assistance.



TFA to the rescue

In January 2019, when Coast Guard personnel went over a month without pay due to the government shutdown, The American Legion processed and delivered over \$1.2 million in Temporary Financial Assistance cash grants for junior enlisted Coast Guard members with minor children at home. Those grants were funded by American Legion charitable contributions.

To learn more about planned giving, dedicating some part of an estate to The American Legion and more, contact the Office of Charitable Giving at (317) 630-1225, email plannedgiving@legion.org or visit legion.giftlegacy.com.

IF YOU'RE A VETERAN WEARING ADULT DIAPERS TO CONTROL URINARY INCONTINENCE, YOU ARE NOT ALONE

"I can keep doing what I want to do, without having to worry about running to the bathroom or changing my clothes. It's a Godsend."

— John, Men's Liberty user



Did you know that over 18%¹ or almost twice as many men with military service experience urinary incontinence?

If you're a veteran looking for urinary incontinence solutions for daily leaks or as a result of an injury while serving our country, Men's Liberty™ can help you get out of absorbent products, condom catheters or pads and start living your life without letting incontinence get in your way.

	MEN'S LIBERTY	ADULT DIAPERS
Keeps you dry 24/7?	YES Can be worn comfortably, cleanly and securely for up to 24 hours	NO Must be changed regularly when they fill up or overflow — often every few hours
Directs urine away from the skin?	YES Completely external design collects fluid into a discreet pouch — leak-free	NO Traps moisture which stays in contact with skin causing discomfort or infection
Reduces the risk of infections?	YES More than 5 million Men's Liberty units have been sold, with reduced risk of infections or skin injuries	NO High incidence of diaper rash, sores, yeast infections and dermatitis
Invisible under clothing?	YES Men's Liberty is unnoticeable — only you know it's there	NO Awkward diapers can be ill-fitting, bulky and uncomfortable
Little to no out-of-pocket cost?	YES Covered by Medicare, most Medicaid plans, many private insurance plans, workers compensation and VA/Tricare	NO Adult diapers are not covered by Medicare, costing users up to \$300 a month

Live your life on your own terms — not in diapers!

FREE INFORMATION. FREE BONUS OFFER.

Find out how to receive Men's Liberty at little or no cost to you.
Plus receive a FREE Bonus week's supply with your order*.



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*30 days supply or more. Standard co-pays and deductibles apply

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¹Vaughan CP, Johnson TM 2nd, Goode PS, Redden DT, Burgio KL, Markland AD. Military exposure and urinary incontinence among American men. J Urol. 2014 Jan; 191(1):125-9. doi: 10.1016/j.juro.2013.07.016. Epub 2013 Jul 16. PMID: 23871759.

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Legion inks MOU on Camp Lejeune Justice Act

Firm that advises service officers seeks to ensure veterans understand class-action settlement.

The American Legion and Bergmann & Moore have entered into a memorandum of understanding in which the legal firm that provides veterans-benefits consultation for accredited Legion service officers can help potential plaintiffs

understand the Camp Lejeune Justice Act (CLJA).

The Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring Our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics Act of 2022 – better known as the PACT Act, signed into law Aug. 10 – opens the door for certain

individuals to file lawsuits and collect damages from the federal government due to their exposure to contaminated water on the Marine Corps base. Qualified claimants had to have served at least 30 days at Camp Lejeune, N.C., between Aug. 1, 1953, and Dec. 31, 1987.

“Our goal is to make sure veterans and their family members do not settle for less than they deserve, and that they have accurate information about the effect a settlement under the CLJA could have on their VA disability benefits (and any other federal benefits),” a dedicated website for Legion members states.

Bergmann & Moore, founded in 2004 by former VA employees, has provided American Legion service officer training and legal consultation since 2017. According to the MOU, Bergmann & Moore “will work in concert with a mass tort law firm as co-counsel to advocate on the claimant’s behalf” once eligibility under the CLJA is determined.

The stated purpose of the MOU has four prongs:

- Create, implement and execute a service project for veterans interested in participating in the PACT Act/CLJA litigation.

- Protect Legion members and their families through education, advocacy and assistance in determining whether a claim under the CLJA would be beneficial when compared with filing for and receiving

benefits from programs administered by VA.

- Ensure Legion members receive the maximum benefits allowed under the law while protecting against predatory and/or unscrupulous actors.

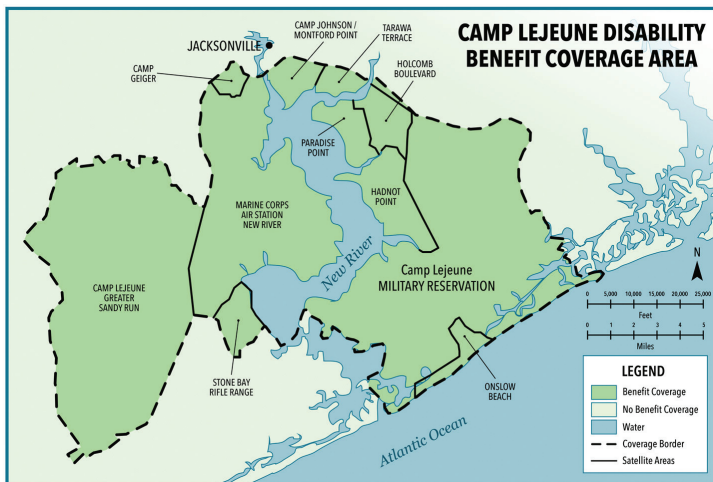
- Prevent Legion members from accepting/receiving a one-

time benefit under the CLJA to the detriment of greater, future VA program eligibility and entitlement.

Multiple forms of cancer are among no fewer than 15 health conditions or medical events that may have been caused by contamination. Claimants may be veterans, their families, civilian contractors or estates of those who were harmed.

Veterans, family members and others potentially affected by contaminated water at Camp Lejeune are encouraged to consult American Legion-accredited service officers about the lawsuit or any other matters related to the PACT Act, which extends VA disability benefits relief for millions of veterans exposed to toxic contamination, from atomic cleanup sites to burn pits in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Visit legion.org and click on “Find a Service Officer” to reach an accredited advocate by ZIP code.



Visit the website or call to learn more:

camplejeunelitigationteam.com/al

1-800-898-9450



535 Members of The American Legion's National Legislative Council, a group designated to serve as direct liaisons to every member of Congress

100 Regularly active members of the National Legislative Council. Apply to be a member at legion.org/legislative.

\$232,500 Amount in 2022 Samsung American Legion Scholarship funds awarded to 86 Boys and Girls State attendees

"Our troops deserve better. Just because Vietnam veterans had it rough does not mean that today's servicemembers should have to live in the same unrenovated facilities."

National Commander Vincent J. "Jim" Troiola, speaking to the Legion's National Executive Committee in October. Amid reports about mold, faulty air conditioning and overcrowding at military barracks, Troiola urged Legionnaires to reach out to military officials to ask how the Legion can serve them. "We cannot properly advocate for their needs before Congress and the White House if we do not know what those needs are," he said.

"Every servicemember who dons the American uniform, regardless of what administrative authority they were mobilized under, deserves the ability to count each day toward their education benefits."

Veterans Employment & Education Commission Chairman James LaCoursiere, on Resolution 24, which expresses the Legion's support for expanding Post-9/11 GI Bill eligibility to include National Guard and reserve members activated under state orders

"That number should have been 340,000."

National Legislative Commission Chairman Daniel Seehafer, who called the Legion Family's lobbying efforts in support of the PACT Act, including more than 34,000 emails to members of Congress, "a crucible in which we reasserted our standing as America's most powerful voice for our veterans." Still, the Legion needs an even stronger voice on Capitol Hill, he said.

Selected resolutions of the Fall Meetings

INTERNAL AFFAIRS

7 American Legion Family Day to be observed annually on the last Saturday of April, with post open houses in communities

VETERANS AFFAIRS & REHABILITATION

16 Encourages veterans to consider becoming a brain and/or body donor, Congress to fund and accelerate VA research on traumatic brain injuries

VETERANS EMPLOYMENT & EDUCATION

22 Urges Congress to extend, expand Veterans Rapid Retraining Assistance Program (VRRAP)

25 Encourages additional affordable-housing funding for homeless and at-risk veterans

See all 25 resolutions at archive.legion.org.

All American Week: 'Stronger Together' after two-year hiatus

Headquarters officers don't consider the previous two COVID years as lost for the 82nd Airborne Division's All American Week at Fort Bragg, N.C. They were canceled due to the pandemic, but Maj. Gen. Christopher LaNeve puts it this way: "I would say we had a missed opportunity, like the whole world had a missed opportunity. But we're sprinting. We're sprinting right now to stake our claim at our point in time in history."

That opportunity was regained in late September when the hashtag and theme - #StrongerTogether - reflected what it means to reunite the whole community. Veterans, families, international visitors and others made their way to the world's largest military base and resumed the tradition, where they witnessed some 19,000 paratroopers train, compete and honor those who came before them. The week kicked off with a traditional 4-mile run and included a memorial observance for those from the division who have passed away; inductions to the division's Hall of Fame; competitions, from boxing to culinary arts; awards presentations for top soldiers and jumpmasters; and a division review on a blustery Pike Field, named for the first of seven Medal of Honor recipients who served in the 82nd. The division's renowned chorus and band performed every step of the week, reviving not just a tradition but a strategic mission to inspire new generations.

"Gatherings like this are about the camaraderie of the division, a reminder of the history of the division - and all of that is a reminder of what you've got to be ready to do in the future," says former division commander Gen. Curtis Scaparrotti, who went on to serve as Supreme Allied



Maj. Gen. Christopher LaNeve leads the 82nd Airborne Division review during All American Week at Fort Bragg, N.C., in September. Photo by Jeff Stoffer

Commander-Europe before retiring from the Army in 2018. "These young troopers who are seeing this for the first time have a better understanding of what wearing that patch means, why it's important and the legacy they've got to uphold."

Scaparrotti was one of nine former 82nd Airborne legends inducted into the division's Hall of Fame during the week, joining personnel ranging from noncoms to combat officers, from World War I to the global war on terrorism.

In recent years, with the 2014 establishment of the division's Hall of Heroes and a remodeled museum to go along with the Hall of Fame, active-duty soldiers are educated early and often about legacy and culture, the annual crescendo of which is All American Week.

That education is also important to veterans of the division. When a soldier leaves the military, "we want them to be ambassadors," LaNeve says. "My hope is that they open up and say something about the 82nd and tell the stories. Our families have got to tell about the importance of serving. That's got to be instilled in them."



"Queen Elizabeth II was a great friend to the United States of America. I was extremely proud to lay a wreath of behalf of The American Legion. It will be a day I always remember with a very heavy heart."

Phil De Monte of **American Legion United Kingdom Post 1 in London**, who placed a wreath outside Windsor Castle on the day of the monarch's funeral. A 30-year resident of England, De Monte is an Air Force veteran and former DoD civilian who served alongside the Royal Air Force and British Army.

THE JOB FRONT BY WENDY S. ENELOW

Consider opportunities beyond 9 to 5

We've seen remarkable changes in the world of work over the past decade, and in particular the past two years. Many of those changes are here to stay and will forever affect how and where people work.

No matter your age, profession, length of career or education, you can take advantage of these changes and pursue part- or full-time opportunities in independent, consulting and gig work (moving from project to project). These opportunities exist for all levels, from young graduates to retirees and everyone in between.

One option you might consider is working as a consultant, either through your own practice or with an established firm. If you have a particular area of expertise you know is of value, think about sharing your knowledge on a contractual basis. Other professions that might be of interest include:

Technology Social media, digital, videography, IT and data offer tremendous opportunities. Technology professions are ripe with non-traditional positions.

Sales and marketing Direct sales, customer service, customer support, call transcription – the list is extensive. Post-pandemic, a majority of companies have transitioned to a remote workforce for a huge cost savings to them, creating opportunities for experienced and inexperienced workers alike.

Accounting and finance Bookkeeping, payroll, reporting and other functions are in high demand, although obviously you must have the practical knowledge to perform these tasks.

Virtual support With more professionals and executives working in non-traditional situations, there is high demand for virtual personal assistants to manage everything from scheduling to correspondence to meeting planning to travel arrangements, and scores of other tasks.

Remember, you hold the reins to your career, and you decide if a 9 to 5 job or an alternative career path is right for you.

Wendy Enelow is author of "Expert Résumé & LinkedIn Profiles for Managers & Executives" and other titles. wendy@wendyenelow.com

Pentagon properties

26.9 million

Acres of land owned by DoD

45

Countries where DoD owns land

\$749 billion

Value of land owned by DoD

3.8 million

Acres of DoD-owned land in New Mexico

MY GI BILL VETERANS & EDUCATION BY VALERIE HEFFNER

Basic housing allowance and incomplete grades

Q: *I'm using my Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits at a community college. This semester has been exceedingly hard for me due to PTSD I acquired while on active duty. My instructor recommended I consider taking an incomplete "I" grade this semester until I'm in a better status. Is it true I would have to pay back all or most of my Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH) if I do this rather than receive an F? What happens to my GI Bill benefits if I do receive an I?*

A: An incomplete grade is a written contract between you and the instructor to fulfill your curriculum within a certain amount of time past the semester. The contract will state the period a student is allowed to complete the course of study. If the student does not finish the course objectives within the allotted time, a failing grade may be assigned. Additionally, a student may have to pay back the BAH provided during the semester the student took the incomplete. Since this is a formal arrangement between student and instructor, VA will not pay BAH past the semester even though the student continues studies at a later time.

Valerie Heffner is a Marine Corps veteran and member of American Legion Post 27 in Apache Junction, Ariz. askvalerie@legion.org



Unidentified remains were returned from the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) laboratory at Offutt Air Force Base, Neb., for reinterment at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific as the USS Oklahoma Project neared completion in 2021. Photo by Air Force Tech. Sgt. Rusty Frank

The USS Oklahoma Project

A six-year effort by the Department of Defense to match disinterred remains from USS *Oklahoma* with DNA samples donated by families has identified the majority of crew members unaccounted for from the battleship's destruction Dec. 7, 1941.

Following the Pearl Harbor attack, recovered remains were buried in the Halawa and Nu'uuanu cemeteries. In 1947, the American Graves Registration Service (AGRS) disinterred those remains and transferred them to the Central Identification Laboratory at Schofield Barracks. Only 35 men from *Oklahoma* were identified at that time. The AGRS buried the unidentified remains in 46 plots at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific (the Punchbowl) in Honolulu, and in 1949 a military board classified them as non-recoverable.

Between June and November 2015, DPAA personnel exhumed the *Oklahoma* unknowns for analysis. Following positive identifications, the Navy assisted families with burial and funeral coordination, travel, lodging and other expenses. The Navy also provided full funeral honors with a rifle salute, burial team and taps.

Those remains unable to be identified were reinterred in ceremonies at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific. Crew members accounted for will have rosettes placed next to their names on the cemetery's Courts of the Missing.

"It's been 80 years since the attack on Pearl Harbor Us being able to recover and identify the remains of the sailors and Marines aids in the closure for those families, but it's also important for the Navy and the Marine Corps to honor those who really did sacrifice their lives for our country."

Navy Casualty Director Robert McMahon

429

Casualties *Oklahoma* sustained

394

Casualties who remained unidentified after initial postwar efforts

361

Casualties individually identified during the project, 94% of the total

33

Casualties who could not be individually identified, 8% of the total





Americans failing in financial literacy

Recently, I talked with a servicemember who's preparing to leave the military about some of the financial implications of transition. I commented that more resources and information are available now than ever before. So when I read about an academic study in the *Journal of Financial Counseling and Planning*, I was floored.

Researchers say that Americans' financial literacy, as measured by several objective questions, has declined since 2009. I decided to dig a little deeper, looking at the five-question quiz used as an assessment. After seeing the elementary nature of the questions asked, I was surprised that since 2009 the average number of correct responses has declined from 2.99 (not good) to 2.58 (worse).

Below are five concepts covered in the quiz. How would you score when it comes to these subjects?

Compound interest Earning interest on your interest, or returns on your returns, is a powerful way to build a nest egg or accumulate money for whatever your goals. It's also a great lesson to motivate and share. The Rule of 72 - divide your return/interest rate into 72 to determine how long it will take your money to double - is a great way to illustrate compounding.

Inflation As we experience rising prices in a big way, I bet more folks are understanding inflation on a personal level. Inflation erodes our purchasing power and must be accounted for as part of your

financial plan. If you're earning 1% on your money and prices are going up at 2%, it's not a good thing.

Bond prices This topic might be a challenge and create some confusion. To get it right, you'd either need to be familiar with how bond pricing works or at least have heard the expression, "The relationship between bond prices and interest rates works like a teeter-totter: one goes up and the other goes down."

Loans Hopefully you don't need a calculator or a spreadsheet to understand that the longer the term of a loan, the more interest you'll pay. Knowing how loans work will help you find the balance between an affordable monthly payment and the interest you pay over the life of a loan. There are tradeoffs, but understanding them will help you evaluate your next mortgage or car loan.

Diversification The old saying "don't put all your eggs in one basket" illustrates the concept of diversification, and why it's a key word to remember as you build your portfolio with a focus on safety.

I hope you don't struggle with questions in any of these areas, but if that's not the case, add exploration of these topics to your personal improvement plan for 2023.

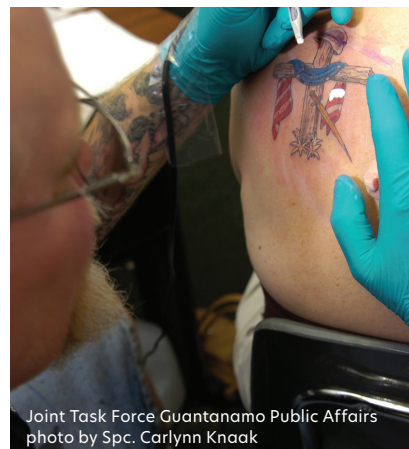
J.J. Montanaro is a certified financial planner with USAA, The American Legion's preferred provider of financial services. legion.org/usaa

GAO proposes clearer tattoo guidance

In a new report, the Government Accountability Office suggests that the tattoo policies and tattoo-waiver policies of the various military branches are confusing and may need to be harmonized. As Military.com reports, citing the study, "The Space Force allows one tattoo on the neck or behind the ear that is no larger than one inch Its parent service, the Air Force, does not allow any

neck tattoos. The Navy allows hand and finger tattoos, but Marines - whose service falls under the Department of the Navy - are not allowed to have any hand tattoos outside of one ring tattoo on one hand."

In addition, all branches restrict tattoos that are racist, sexist or extremist, and the Navy, Marines and Coast Guard restrict drug- or gang-related tattoos.



Joint Task Force Guantanamo Public Affairs
photo by Spc. Carlynn Knaak

How to submit a reunion

The American Legion Magazine publishes reunion notices for veterans. Send notices to **The American Legion Magazine, Attn: Reunions, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206**, e-mail reunions@legion.org or submit information online at legion.org/reunions.

Include the branch of service and complete name of the group, no abbreviations, with your request. The listing also should include the reunion dates and city, along with a contact name, telephone number and e-mail address. Listings are free.

Notices will remain online until the final day of the reunion. Upon submission, allow three months for your reunion to be published in print. **Due to the large number of reunions, The American Legion Magazine will publish a group's listing twice a year.**

Other notices

"In Search Of" is a means of getting in touch with people from your unit to plan a reunion. **We do not publish listings that seek people for interviews, research purposes, military photos or help in filing a VA claim.** Listings must include the name of the unit from which you seek people, the time period and the location, as well as a contact name, phone number and e-mail address. Send notices to **The American Legion Magazine, Attn: "In Search Of," P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206** or e-mail reunions@legion.org.

The magazine will not publish names of individuals, only the name of the unit. Listings are free.

Life Membership notices are published for Legionnaires who have been awarded life memberships by their posts. **This does not include a member's own Paid-Up-For-Life membership.**

Notices must be submitted on official forms, which may be obtained by sending a self-addressed stamped envelope to **The American Legion Magazine, Attn: Life Memberships, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206**.

"Comrades in Distress" listings must be approved by the Legion's Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Division. If you are seeking to verify an injury received during service, contact your American Legion department service officer for information on how to publish a notice.

To respond to a "Comrades in Distress" listing, send a letter to **The American Legion Magazine, Attn: Comrades in Distress, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206**. Include the listing's CID number in your response.

"Taps" notices are published only for Legionnaires who served as department commanders or national officers.

AIR FORCE / ARMY AIR FORCES

78th Security Forces, Sevierville, TN, 4/24-28, Michael Janssen, (678) 972-5074, mj12354@icloud.com

ARMY

3/187th Rgt Rakkasans, 101st Abn Div, Clarksville, TN, 5/15-19, Thomas Martin, (856) 332-7030, tomsml96@yahoo.com

JOINT

Desert Storm Vets, Tampa, FL (Cruise), 2/4-9, Anthony Taylor, (740) 646-6164, savacations0814@gmail.com

MARINES

Basic School Class 3-67/41st Officer Candidate Class, Arlington, VA, 10/26-29, Paul Disario, (559) 273-9549, pdisario@comcast.net; **Hotel Co 2nd Bn 7th Mar Vietnam Veterans (1965-1970)**, Oklahoma City, 6/8-11, Jim "Jerry" Norris, (940) 631-7233, postaim16@hotmail.com; **Mike 3/7**, Evansville, IN, 5/31-6/4, James Werner, (812) 550-3138, 712trob@gmail.com

NAVY

Albert David DE/FF 1050, Branson, MO, 4/18-22, John Pabis, (623) 584-0453, jspabis@aol.com; **Ault DD 698**, Fredericksburg, VA, 4/24-27, James Welch, (970) 381-3326, bwelchj@what-wire.com; **Berkeley DDG 15**, Corpus Christi, TX, 9/14-17, Al Meier, (408) 656-3879, alphawhiskey.ddg15@yahoo.com; **Conserver ARS 39**, Mesa, AZ, 4/26-30, Dale Hower, (619) 449-4499, dcwoodworking1@yahoo.com; **Finback SSN 670**, San Antonio, 4/12-16, Stuart Dupre, (504) 575-4735, stuart.dupre@gmail.com; **Franklin D. Roosevelt CV/CVA 42**, San Antonio, 4/12-15, Carlo Giraulo, girauloc13@gmail.com; **Fresno LST 1182**, San Diego, 6/23-25, Hoss Peterson, (615) 477-5636, ussfma1182@gmail.com; **Fulton AS 11**, Pittsburgh, 8/23-26, Ron Schwartzkopf, (937) 754-0326, chris41ron@att.net; **Manatee AO 58**, Branson, MO, 5/1-4, Ann Perrigoue, (623) 398-4074, gms691@hotmail.com; **Naval Hosp Camp Lejeune Physical Therapy Dept (Mar-Aug 1971)**, Wintersville, OH, FaceTime Reunion, 6/1-2, Lawrence Davin, (740) 264-5180, cindy_davin@yahoo.com; **Navy Seabee Veterans of America, Nat'l Convention**, San Antonio, 8/15-19, Charles Coffin, (203) 843-5513, nsvassec@gmail.com; **Rupertus DD 851**, Providence/Warwick, RI, 5/3-6, Alan Lewis, (914) 443-5496, alewis@hvc.rr.com; **Sam Rayburn SSBN 635**, Mobile, AL, 5/22-27, Winston Dunn, (228) 623-0451, n5phms@gmail.com; **Tulare AKA/LKA 112**, Charleston, SC, 5/17-20, Ed Hamblin, (757) 405-3362, ehamblin74@verizon.net; **Wallace L. Lind DD 703**, Gatlinburg, TN, 5/22-25, Ed Bauscher, (502) 876-2137, eb62vette@aol.com

LIFE MEMBERSHIP

Post 142, FL: Stephen K. Aker, Kevin Bolender, Robert Lavoie Sr., Robert L. Martin, Charles E. McLaughlin Jr., George Stengel Jr., Gerald Toomey

Post 90, MI: Henry Clouthier, Gerald Joyal, William Kallio, Don Keith, Bruce King

Post 266, NC: Robert R. Cloninger, David L. Coffey, Bradley S. Snider, James C. Young

Post 34, RI: Doug Holland

IN SEARCH OF

8th Cbt Support Grp, Ubon RTAFB Sensor Shop (1971-1973), John Farmer, mugaipass@yahoo.com

13th FDS (Fort Benjamin Harrison, IN & Camp Perry, OH, April 1961-Aug 1963), Dan Kelly, (814) 243-9401, dwkcwret@gmail.com

40th Security Police Grp (Aviano AB, Italy, 1974-1977), John Speer, (812) 664-1402, dspeer8082@gmail.com

48th Med Bn A Co 2nd Armd Div (1959-1960), Gerard Leegwater, (612) 426-8063, theleegs@centurylink.net

510th Ftr Sqdn (1942-1945), Stanley Davis, 2150 Bleeker St., Utica, NY 13501

582nd Trans Co, Warehouse AK4GB9 (Coleman Barracks, Mannheim, Germany, 1974-1977), Charles Dvorak, (402) 292-0526

867th FA Bn "Atomic Annie" (Neckarsulm, Germany, 1954-1956), James Degnan, (661) 294-0256, my4cam@aol.com

2791st AF Hosp (Hill AFB, Ogden, UT, 1952-1954), Joan Dworschak, (941) 722-3746, ltwaltd@aol.com

Army Special Sec Grp ACSI DA HQ VII Corps (Kelly Barracks, Stuttgart/Mohringen, Germany, 1974-1976), Mike Lamb, (941) 896-3600, mmlamb2002@yahoo.com

B Co 2/12 1st Cav (Vietnam, Jan-Aug 1968), Laurence Rohr, (618) 294-4658

Carpenter DD 825, M. Weston, (925) 686-6707
Coast Guard Land & Shipmates (Moss Landing & Santa Cruz, CA, 1967), Ed Whitson, (208) 686-1045

Implicit MSO 45, M. Weston, (925) 686-6707

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1. Outside-county as stated on Form 3541	4,236	4,204
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I certify that all information furnished on this form is true and complete.

Jeffrey Stoffer, Publisher

What is an icicle but a stiff upper drip?

A CHILD asked Santa Claus, “How did your reindeer get their names?”

Santa replied, “I name them after memories, like Prancer frolicking through the snow!”

“What about Donner?” the child asked.

A shadow settled on Santa’s face, and after a moment he began: “The year was 1847, and snowfall had trapped us in the Sierra Nevada”

WHY DID SANTA visit his doctor before the holidays? He always gets a flue shot before he slides down chimneys.

TWO EGGS, a bagel and some sausage walk into a bar. “Bartender, my friends and I would like a cold one,” says one of the eggs.

“Sorry,” the bartender replies. “We don’t serve breakfast.”

A CHILD couldn’t decide what to ask Santa for, so her mother gave her a pre-printed list of “presents for a good little girl.”

She looked gravely at it for a minute, then asked, “Do you have a list for a bad little girl?”

DID YOU HEAR about the cheese that’s been working out? Dude’s shredded.

THERE ARE THREE WAYS to play hockey: rough, rougher, and “I’ll help you find your teeth if you help me find mine.”

ACCORDING TO unofficial sources, a new simplified income-tax form has only four lines:

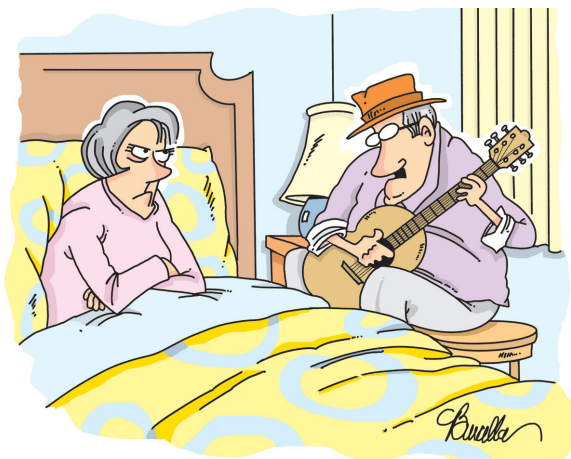
- What was your income for the year?
- What were your expenses?
- What did you have left?
- Send it in.

MY WIFE AND I let astrology come between us. It Taurus apart.

“I WORRY about ridiculous things – you know, how does a guy who drives a snowplow get to work in the morning? That can keep me awake for days.” – *Billy Connolly*



“Cheer up, Mr. Claus. At least someone believes you’re real.”



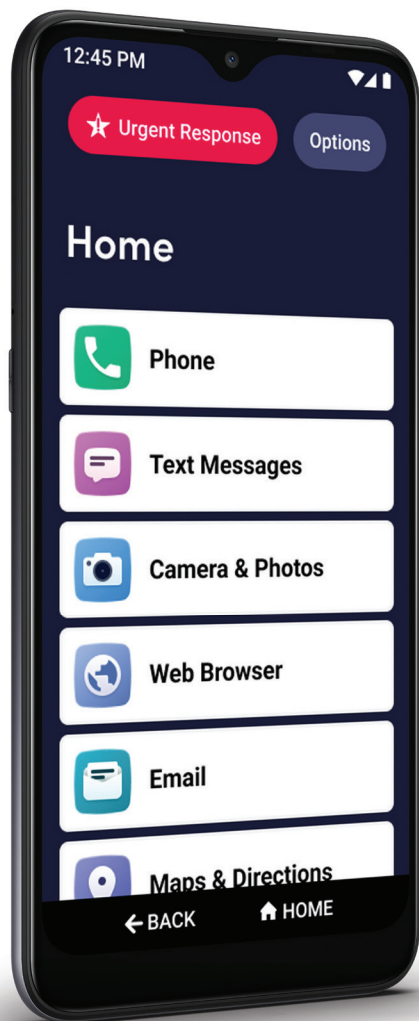
“And here’s one I wrote about my wife complaining about my playing and singing while she’s trying to get to sleep.”



“I should consider keeping an exercise bike for myself? Just what are you trying to say?”

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